



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

In the light of the present usage of the plural term "epilepsies," intended to comprise a group of disease conditions in which the nature of the seizure manifestations varies and in which the etiology of the convulsive attacks possibly differs, the writer endeavored to determine the incidence of syphilis in a series of established institutional cases of essential epilepsy as evidenced by history of primary infection, clinical manifestations, and corroborative evidence of the Wassermann reaction. In 231 cases the incidence of syphilis was found to be 2.2 per cent.

These cases are viewed in the light of the probability of the luetic infection existing side by side with the epilepsy; the seizure manifestations may or may not be traced to the specific involvement, but are perhaps aggravated by the latter disease.

The occurrence of a syphilitic factor in epilepsy as evidenced by repeated positive Wassermann tests alone, in the absence of clinical support, as far as it was possible of determination, was found in 2 per cent of the cases.

This small percentage might, perhaps, constitute the possible syphilitic etiology of epilepsy as determined in a series of 245 cases. Further proof can not be offered.

REFERENCES.

- (1) Clark, Pierce L., *Clinical Studies in Epilepsy*. G. E. Stechart and Co., New York, 1917.
- (2) Buchanan, J. A., *Minnesota Medicine*, St. Paul, Vol. 3, No. 11, November, 1920. Abstracted in *Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*, Dec. 4, 1920.
- (3) Rawlings, Eva., *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*, August, 1919, p. 180.
- (4) Stuart, Daniel D., jr., *Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*, October, 1920, p. 933.

INDIANA LAW FOR PREVENTION OF PROCREATION BY CERTAIN PERSONS HELD INVALID.

The following abstract of a decision by the Indiana Supreme Court is taken from the advance sheets of the *Federal Reporter*, issue of August 11, 1921:

The chief physician of the Indiana Reformatory, the board of managers, and two chosen physicians were enjoined from performing vasectomy on an inmate of the reformatory, and on their appeal the law under which they proposed to act was held invalid, as denying due process of law, by the Indiana Supreme Court in *Williams v. Smith*, 131 *Northeastern Reporter*, 2, for the reason that it gave the inmate no opportunity to cross-examine the experts deciding on the operation, to controvert their opinion, or to establish that he was not within the class designated in the statute which includes confirmed criminals, idiots, rapists, and imbeciles, whose mental and physical condition makes procreation inadvisable. The questions of cruel and unusual punishment and infliction of pains and penalties by the legislative body through administrative boards were not considered by Judge Townsend, who wrote the opinion, the act being held to be in plain violation of the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution.